

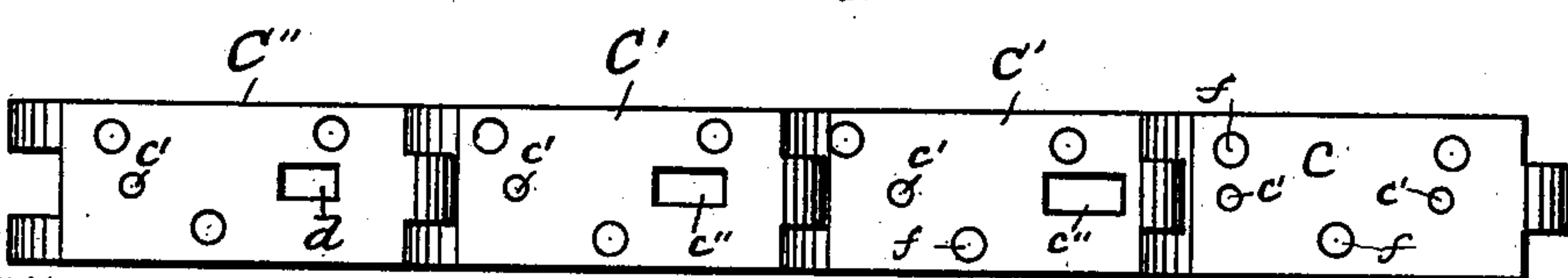
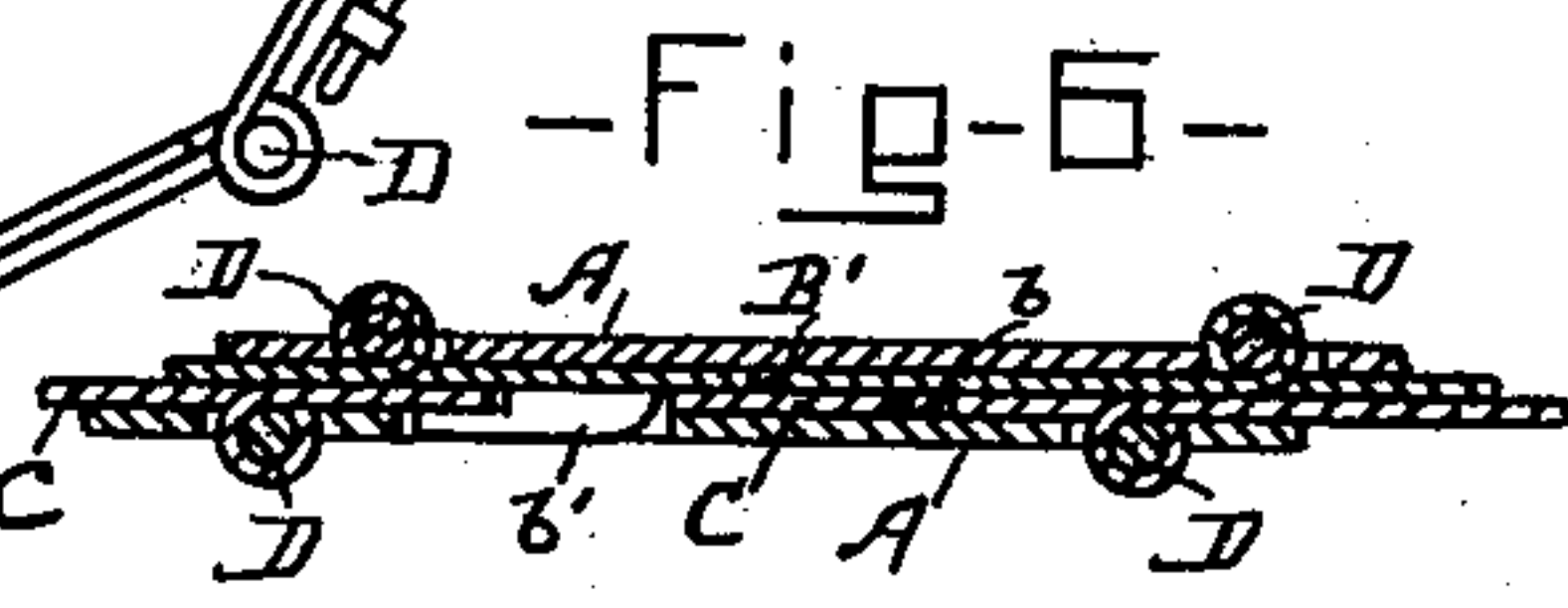
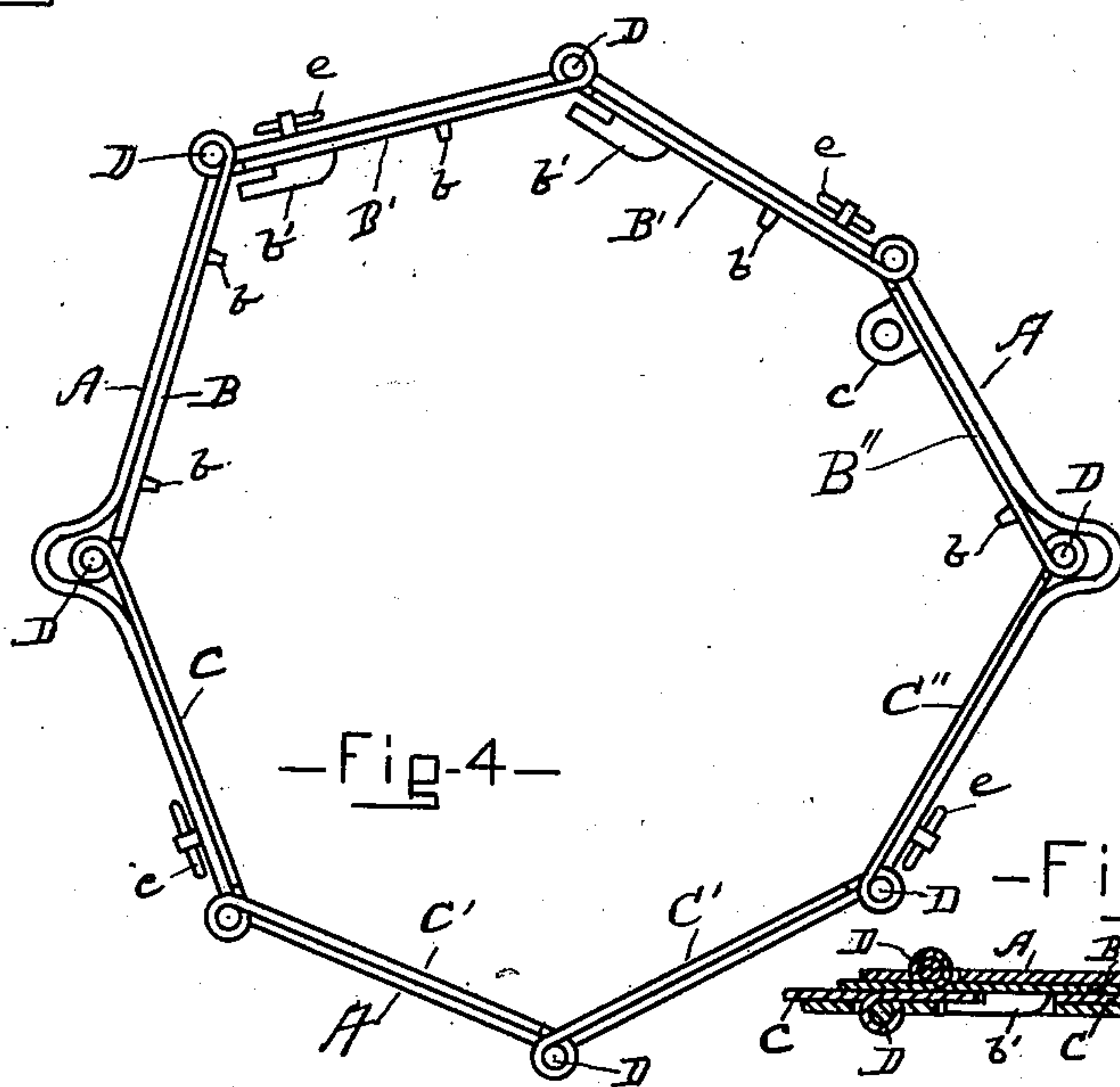
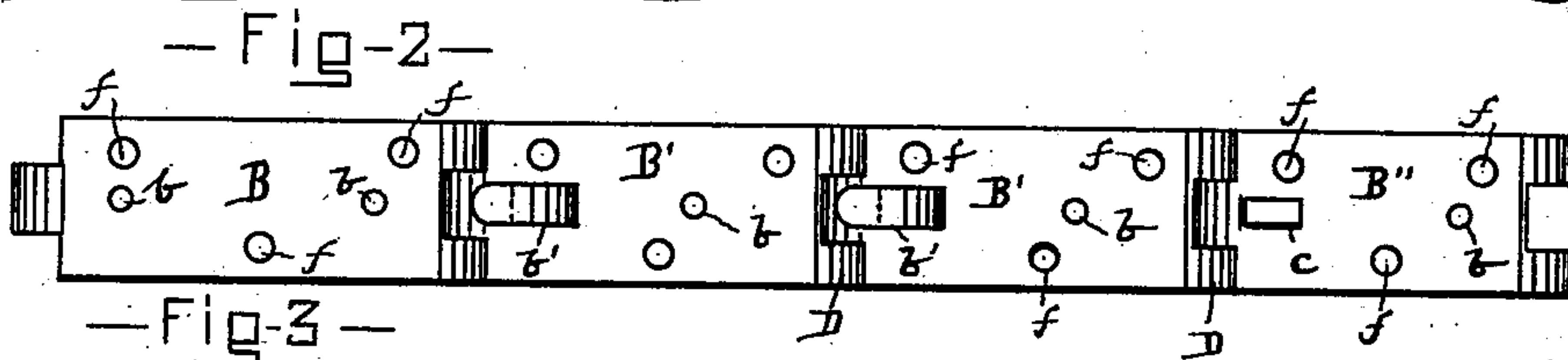
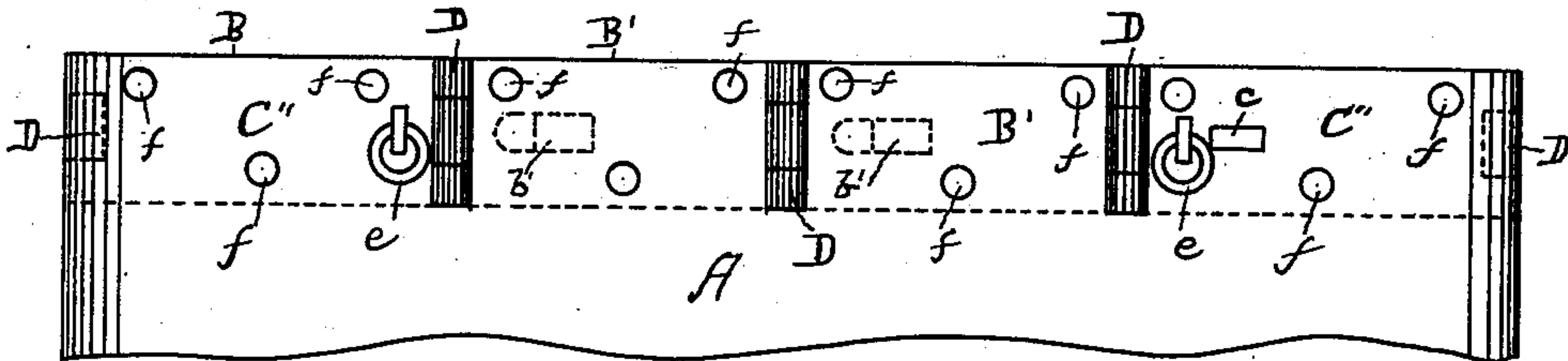
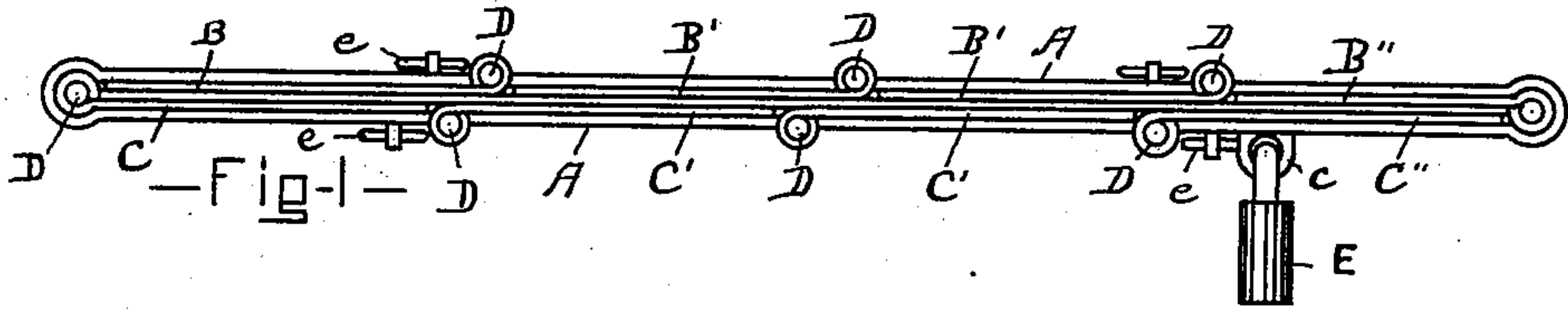
No. 685,179.

Patented Oct. 22, 1901.

C. G. SEEBERS.
MAIL BAG FASTENER.

(Application filed Mar. 1, 1901.)

(No Model.)



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Fig-5-

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MAIL-BAG FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 685,179, dated October 22, 1901.

Application filed March 1, 1901. Serial No. 49,409. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES G. SEEBERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Dayton, in the county of Montgomery and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Fasteners; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in mail-bags, and comprises a fastening device by means of which the mouth of the bag is secured against a burglarious entrance and which can be easily and quickly opened and closed by those in authority.

Other objects and advantages will appear from the detail description and claims, taken in connection with the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a top view of a mail-bag, showing the fastening device closed. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the mouth or upper portion of the mouth. Fig. 3 is an elevation of the inner side of the plates of one side of the bag. Fig. 4 is a top view of the bag open. Fig. 5 is a view of the inner sides of the plates lying opposite to those shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section through two of the locking-plates, showing them in their locked position.

Referring by letter to said drawings, A designates the upper end or mouth portion of a mail-bag. Secured to the inner sides of the mouth of such mail-bag by rivets *f* or otherwise are two series of locking-plates B, B', B'', C, C', and C''. The plates B, B', and B'' occupy positions on one side of the bag and the plates C, C', and C'' occupy positions on the opposite side of the bag. These plates are hinged together by a series of hinges D. The plate B has two studs *b* projecting from it. The plates B' have each one of such studs *b* and a horizontally-disposed angular catch *b'*. The plate B'' has one of such studs *b* and a staple *c*. The plate C, which is opposite plate B, has two holes *c'*, into which the studs on said plate B project when brought together.

The plates C' have each an oblong hole *c''* and a hole *c'*, into which the catches *b'* and the studs *b* on the plates B' project when said plates B' and C' are brought together.

The plate C'' has an opening *d*, into which the staple *c*, and an opening *c'*, into which the stud *b* on the plate B'', projects when such plates B'' and C'' are brought together. The catches *b'* and the studs *b* on the plates B, B', and B'' project into said openings in the plates C, C', and C'' when the mouth of the bag is closed, as shown in Fig. 1. When the catches *b'* are thus inserted in their corresponding openings *c''*, the studs *b* on such plates enter their respective openings *c'*, and the plates are thus securely interlocked and prevented from any longitudinal movement, and thereby the catches *b'* are kept in position in such openings. The staple *c*, which passes through its opening *d* in the plate C'', receives a padlock E. When the plates are interlocked with each other, as before described, and this lock E is in position on the staple, the mouth of the bag cannot be opened. In opening the mouth of the bag the padlock is removed and the plates B'' and C'' are drawn apart. This operation permits the remaining interlocked plates to easily separate in one operation. As shown in the drawings, there are eight of these locking-plates used, four on each side. The two middle plates on each side contain the catches *b'* and their corresponding openings *c''*. The number of such plates B' and C' may be increased; but it is found in practice that two of such plates B' and C' on opposite sides will successfully act as means for maintaining the bag open, as shown in Fig. 4. These plates, as before stated, are hinged, and thereby the mouth of the bag is given a flexible support, which adds very little in material weight and yet will maintain the mouth of the bag open to receive matter. In closing the mouth of the bag the plates B and C are first brought together, the studs on the former plate entering their corresponding openings in the plate C. The first adjacent plate B' is then brought in contact with its respective plate C' and the catch *b'* thereon permitted to enter its respective opening in such plate C', and so on until the plates B'' and C'' are brought together. On the outside of the mouth of the sack there are

two or more rings *e*, by means of which the opening of the bag is manipulated, and these rings afford convenient means for suspending the bag in an open condition to receive mail-matter. The simplicity and effectiveness of this attachment will be readily appreciated from the fact that in opening said bag a single operation only is necessary and likewise in closing such bag.

The bag will remain open for the insertion of matter by suspending it by means of a single ring *e*. Mail-bags now commonly in use require to be suspended by four rings or at four points of its mouth in order to keep it open.

When the bag is closed, as in Fig. 1, the thickness of the mouth will not exceed one-half an inch.

Having described the invention, the following claims are made:

1. In a mail-bag fastening, the combination with a series of plates rigidly secured to such mail-bag on the inner side of one side of the mouth thereof and hinged together, the intermediate ones of such plates having studs or projections extending therefrom, and horizontally-disposed angular catches on such plates; the remaining ones of such plates having studs or projections thereon, the studs or projections on all of such plates serving to prevent longitudinal movement thereof, and the angular catches on the intermediate ones of such plates serving to lock said plates, a series of plates secured to the opposite inner side of said mail-bag, the intermediate ones of the last-named series of plates having stud-openings and horizontal openings to receive the studs and the angular catches on the intermediate plates of the first-named series, the remaining one of said last-named series of plates having openings to receive the studs on the adjacent plates of the first-named series, and means for locking the plates when they are placed in an interlocked position, substantially as specified.

2. A fastening device for mail-bags, comprising two series of interlocking plates secured to the inner side of the mouth of such

mail-bag and hinged together, a portion of the plates of one series having horizontally-disposed angular catches and studs projecting therefrom, and the remaining plates of such series having studs projecting therefrom, a series of plates secured to the opposite side of said mail-bag, a portion of such plates having horizontal openings therein and stud-openings to receive the angular catches and studs on the opposite plates of the first-named series, and the remaining plates of the last-named series having stud-openings to receive the studs on the opposite plates of the first-named series, the said studs serving to prevent any longitudinal movement of said plates, and the angular catches on said plates serving to prevent a separation of the sides of the bag, and a detachable lock by means of which the plates are secured after they are placed in their interlocked position, substantially as specified.

3. In a mail-bag fastening, the combination of a series of locking-plates arranged on the inner side of one side of the mouth thereof, and a series of locking-plates arranged on the opposite inner side of the mouth of said mail-bag, the plates of both series having a hinged connection throughout, a portion of such plates provided with studs and stud-openings, and the remaining portion of such plates having angular catches and studs, and openings for said angular catches and studs, the connections between the plates effected by means of such studs and stud-openings serving to prevent any separate longitudinal movement of the plates of either series, and the connection between the plates effected by means of the angular catches serving to prevent any separation of the plates of either series while the plates of both series are connected through the studs and stud-openings.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES G. SEEBERS.

Witnesses:

R. J. MCCARTY,
C. M. THEOBOLD.